Survey on use of Rivers as Waterways

1062. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a immenese scope to use the rivers as waterways in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Natioal Transport Policy Committee (1980) nas identified ten waterways having potential for declaration and development as National Waterways.

Three of them namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal have been declared as National Waterways. Hydrographic surveys and Techno-economic studies have been conducted on some other waterways such as DVC canal, Barak river, East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani and Mahanadi river system, Kakinada-Mercaunam canal integrated with Godavari and Krishna river system, extension of NW-3 etc. Their declaration as national waterways would depend on availability of funds.

(d) Does not arise.

Additional Grants to states for tourism

1063. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided additional funds/grants to some selected States for improving infrastructures to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider providing more grants in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the projects which are prioritised in consultation with them. During 1999-2000 financial assistance was provided for 414 projects. During the year 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 42.60 crores has been allocated for development of tourist infrastructure in the country which includes 10% of the budget earmarked for North Eastern States.

Places of Mythological significance in UNESCO's list

†1064. SMT. SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in India registered in the UNESCO's list of places of mythological significance in the world;

(b) the number of proposals sent so far to UNESCO by Government of India in this connection togetherwith the dates of submitting these proposals; and

(c) whether any decision has so far been taken by UNESCO regarding these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Sixteen monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India are inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

(b) Eleven proposals have been sent in June 1998 to UNESCO for inscription as World Heritage Sites.

(c) No decision has so far been taken by UNESCO in the matter.

Tourism Potentiality in Maharashtra

1065. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots of Maharashtra listed in the Government of India's Tourism network indicating the allocated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.